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Md. Cleric in Domingo

Priest Says U. S. Tried Convincing Godoy to Stay

By RUTH MONTGOMERY
News American Correspondent
Hearst Headline Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—A Catholic priest-scholar whose pipelines to the bubbling cauldron of Latin American intrigue frequently out-distance the CIA and State Department says of troubled Santo Domingo:

"The situation there is so touch-and-go that the real reason Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker had to fly down there recently was to talk provisional President Hector Garcia Godoy out of resigning." Bunker is our representative on the council of Organization of American States.

The Rev. Joseph Thorning of Frederick, Md., whom Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield calls "the Padre of the Americas," was the first to alert Americans to the Communist ties of Cuba's Fidel Castro, at a time when CIA officials were emphatically denying that Castro was Red.

THE KNOWLEDGEABLE priest later delivered a widely publicized address in which he flatly stated that Castro was permitting Soviets to erect missile launching sites in Cuba. This was a month before acknowledgement of the fact came from the White House, CIA and State Department.

Father Thorning seems equally well informed about the Dominican Republic, which has endured 14 turnovers of government since the murder of dictator Rafael Trujillo in 1961.

Although elections in the strife-torn land have been scheduled for late next spring, Father Thorning says more than one top U. S. official has informed him that "the idea of thinking free elections can be held there that early is an illusion." The priest explains that "the coalition regime with its Marxist elements is considered too fragile to make free elections possible."

SEVENTY-EIGHT unexplained murders with heavy political overtones have occurred there during the past five weeks. One of the victims was Angel Severo Cabral, who served as interior minister in charge of law enforcement until last April, when the government of his distant relative, Donald Reid Cabral, was overturned.

Cabral had gone with his wife and daughter to reclaim some furniture from their residence in downtown Santo Domingo, which had been taken over by squatters. He was shot, and after being lifted, badly wounded, into an ambulance, was killed by a leftist mob that crowded into the conveyance.

Father Thorning says most of the 77 other murder victims have been "decent moderates, but a few were left-wingers, which suggests that acts of revenge are following the pattern of Spain just before the outbreak of the Spanish civil war."

A TENUOUS peace is currently being maintained by the presence of 17 U. S. and 10 Brazilian tanks supplied through the inter-American peace force. Juan Bosch, whose legally constituted government was overthrown in 1963, is now back in Santo Domingo after his Puerto Rican Exile.

"The irony of it is," Father Thorning says, "that although Juan Bosch is loudly preaching hatred of the U. S. and demanding that the International Court of Justice force us to pay a billion-dollar indemnity, Bosch called on U. S. paratroopers last

week to protect him while he moved from his downtown residence to the suburbs of Santo Domingo. He tries to turn the Dominicans against us, but needs our paratroopers to protect him from his own people."

Father Thorning's sources have told him that Hector Garcia Godoy badly wants out as provisional president, is kept in power only by the inter-American peace force, and will under no circumstances stand for election. They say Bosch definitely hopes to run again, but that he is turning moderates against him by his demagogic attacks on the U. S., as well as by the "cowardice" he displayed in not returning to his homeland last April when a plane was made ready for him.

Meanwhile, Uncle Sam has pledged \$100 million a year to prop up the wobbly coalition government of Santo Domingo.